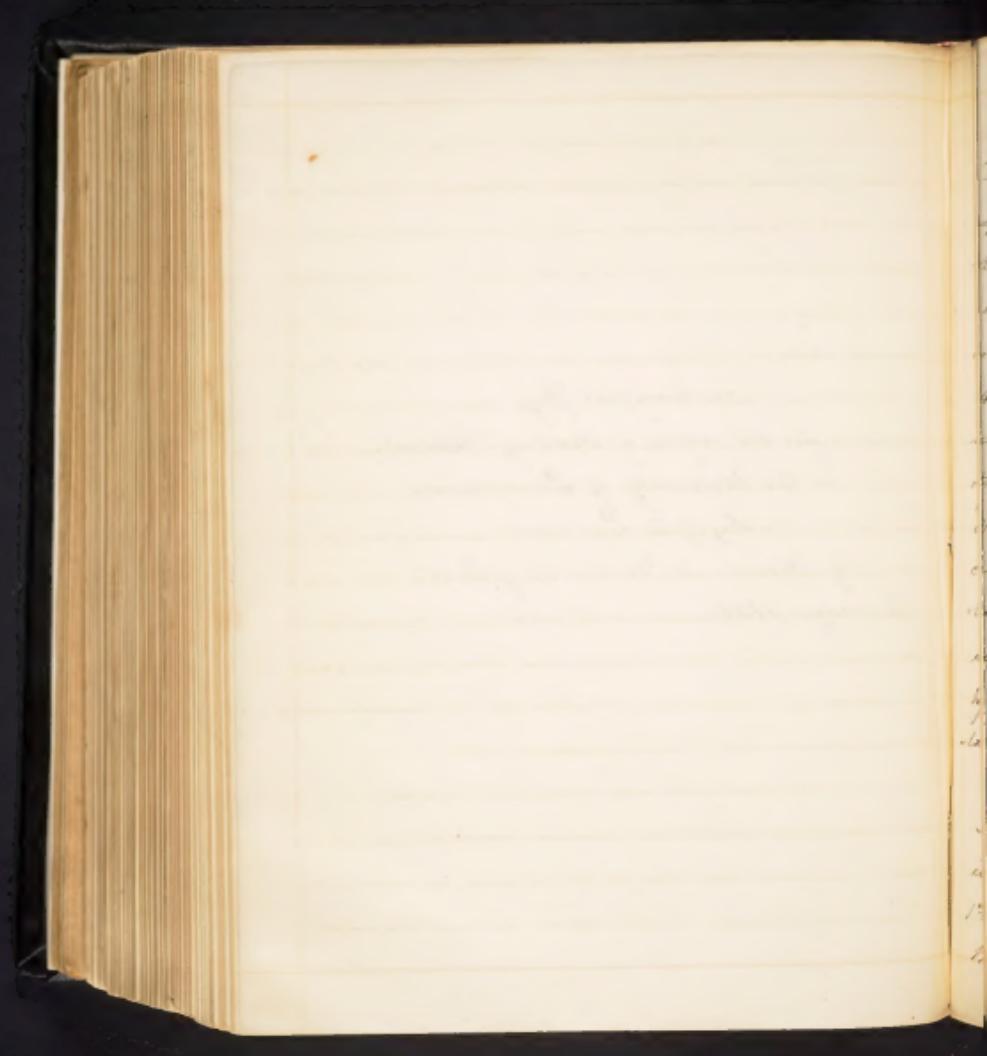


The Inaugural Oration;  
for the degree of Doctor of Medicine;  
in the University of Pennsylvania;  
on <sup>the</sup> ~~Digitatus~~ <sup>Digitatus</sup> ~~Surpresa~~ Surpresa.  
by Horatio H. Glazebrook of Phil<sup>ly</sup>.  
January - 1828.

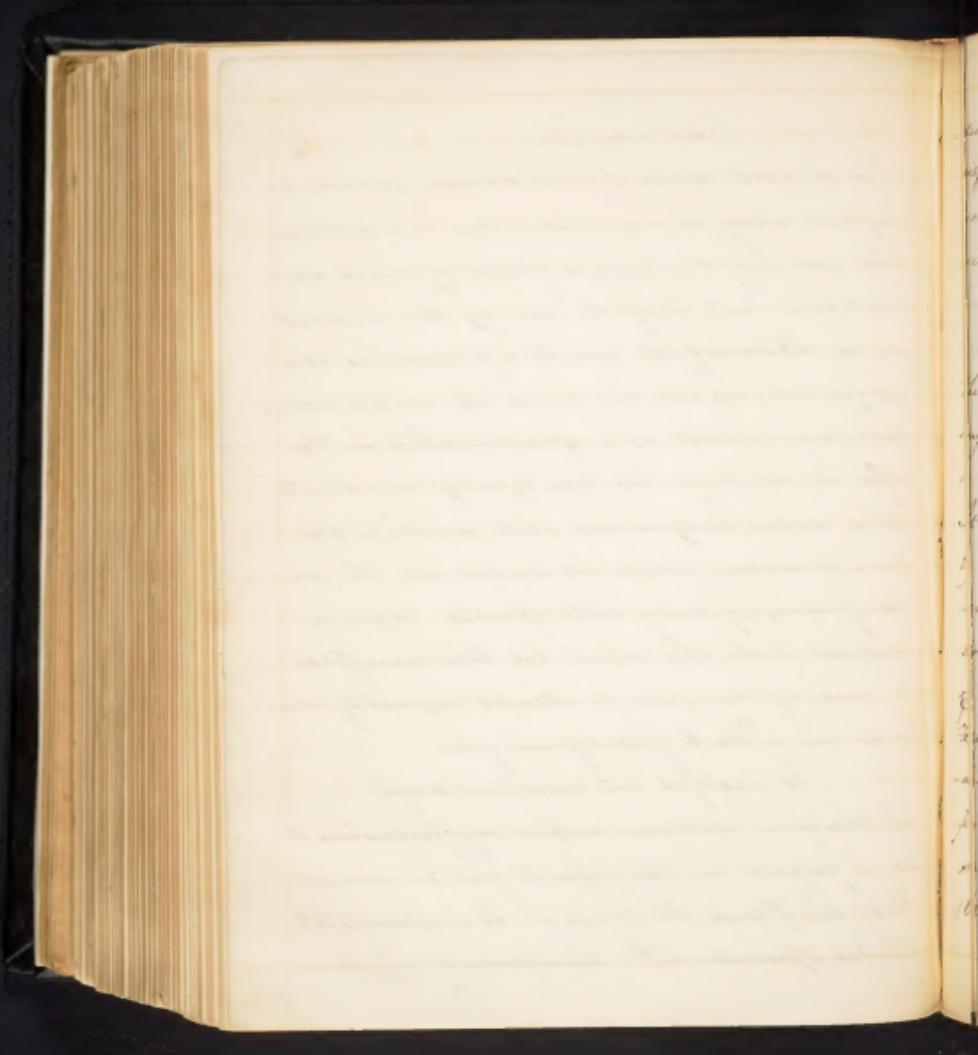


### Introduction

The subject which I have chosen for an annual paper, is one which has been written the last half of Century; a cause of much speculation and dispute among the medical world. Discredited soon to a record, has been in fortune; on the one hand its virtues were belittled almost as a delusion, whilst on the other its merits has been equally maintained. Who doctors disagree who shall decide; in this case - experience which has swept into the scale of insignificance both opinions. Upon a subject like this which has been encroached by men of learning, to attempt originality would be vain - 'tis to gild refined gold.

It is wasteful and ridiculous & cts.

I therefore disclaim making any pretensions to it. I propose in this paper to give an account 1<sup>st</sup> of the Plant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mode of Exhibition, 3<sup>rd</sup> Notus operatus, & 4<sup>th</sup> Therapeutical applica-

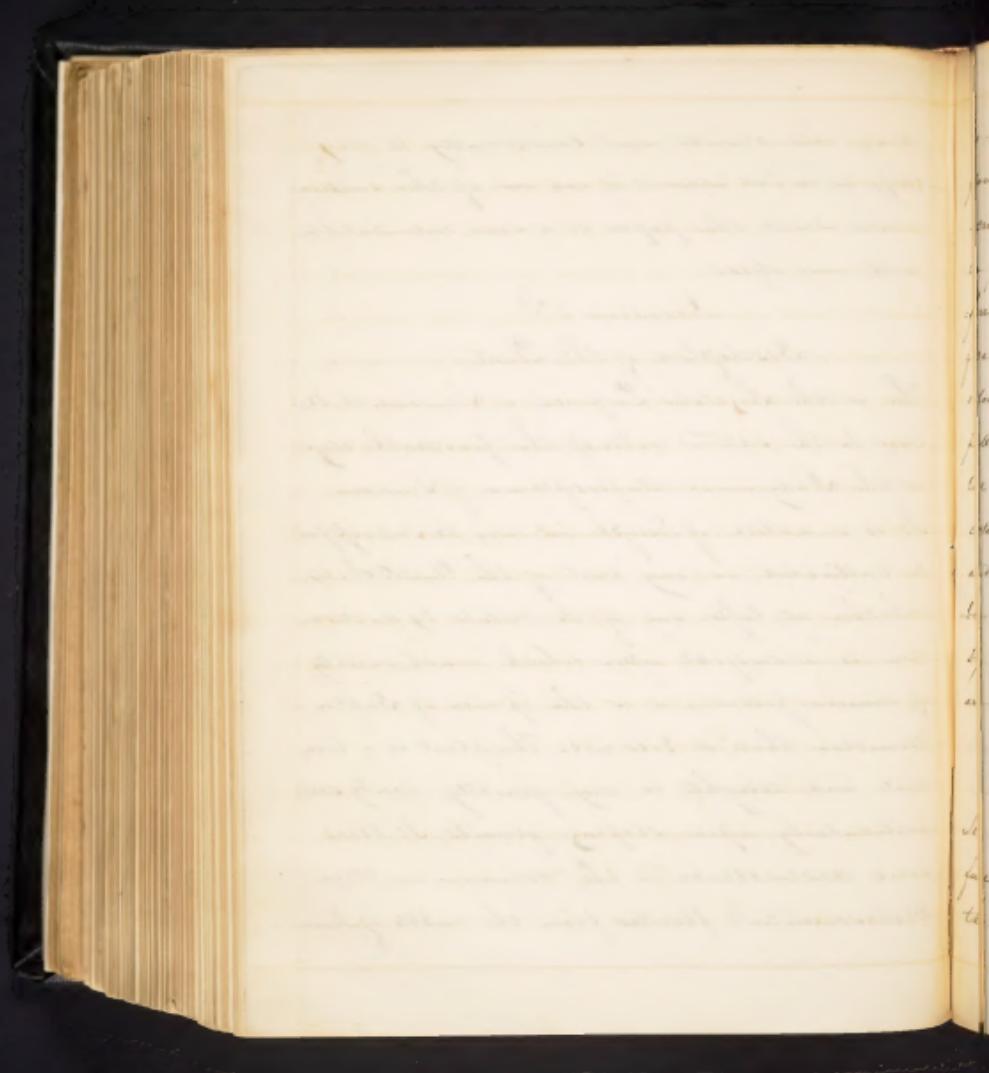


long time I need not consequently be very  
busy; as a full account of any one of the division  
would render this paper to a voice incompatible  
with my object.

### Division 1<sup>st</sup>

#### Description of the Plant.

This is the *Digitaria Purpurea* of Linnaeus, it be-  
longs to the second order of the fourteenth class;  
in the *Digitaria Angospermia* of Linnaeus.  
It is a native of Europe, but may be successfully  
cultivated in any part of the United States,  
whether at first any of its varieties by culture  
is a subject upon which much variety  
of opinion prevails; it is the opinion of Doctor  
Hamilton that it does not. This plant is a bi-  
ennial and delights in any, gravelly, sandy soil;  
particularly upon sloping grounds. It bears  
some resemblance to the common mullein  
*Verbascum*. It flowers from the middle of June



to the end of July; the roots, stems, leaves and flowers have a peculiar herbaceous, aromatic, and acid taste. Every part of the plant possesses some properties, but the leaves are generally preferred and are said to be by far the more efficacious; they are slightly serrated, wrinkled, long, egg-shaped, of a green colour above, but pale underneath. Chemical composition - albumin matter; and green wax in which its aromatic properties reside. Solubility both water and alcohol extract its extract. Incomparable substances its solution are precipitated by Chloride of Mercury, Nitrate of silver, and by an infusion of yellow cinchona bark.

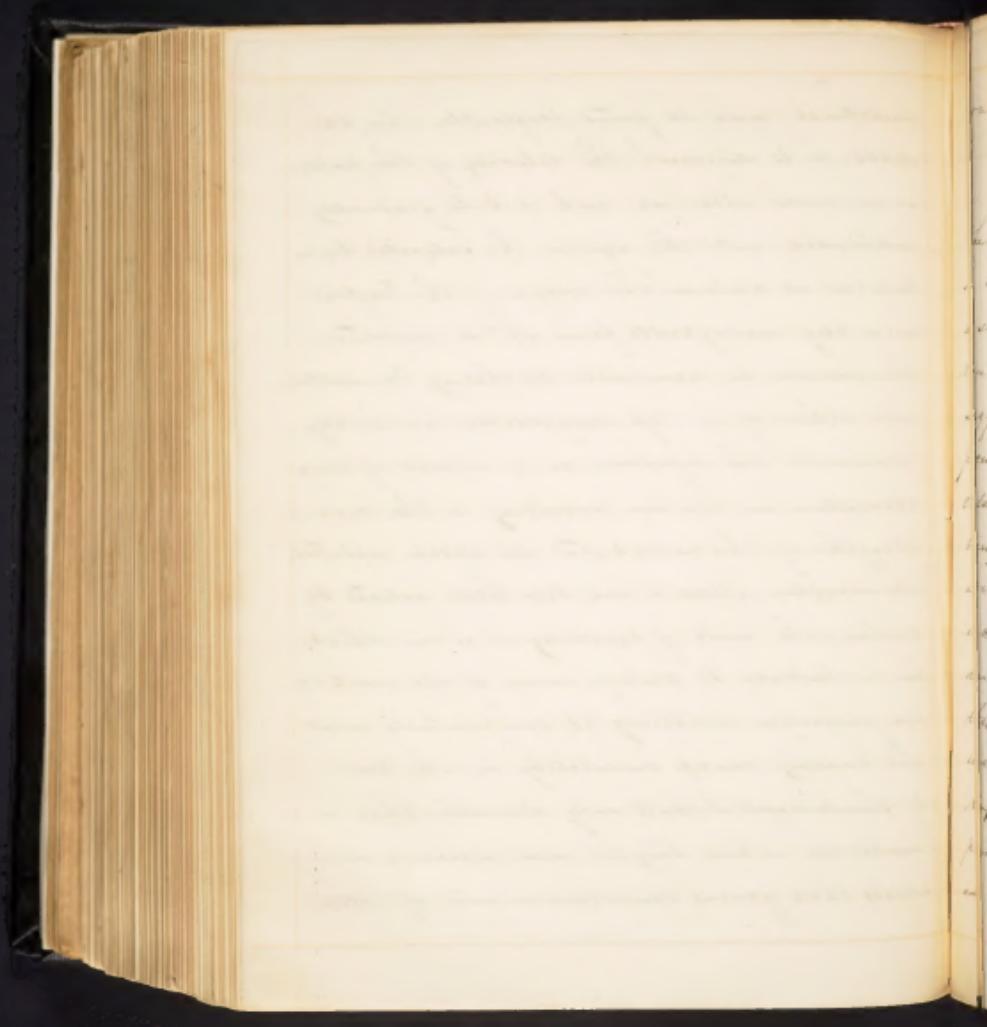
#### Division 28

##### Mode of exhibition

It may be given in substance, Tincture, Infusion, Decoction; and Extract. When we wish the effects of a narcotic to be produced the



substance will be found preferable. When the object is to diminish the velocity of the pulse, or in cases where we wish it to be gradually introduced into the system, the saturated tincture as it contains the virtues of the Tincture in a very manageable form should be preferred. When diarrhoea is demanded Withering, Hamilton, and others of no less respectable authority, recommend the Saponin - as it admits of very regulation in the dose according to the case, strength of the patient, and the effects produced. The decoction seems to have been little noticed by authors; the mode of preparing it is one which has a tendency to destroy many of its most active properties rendering it comparatively inert and causing much variability in the dose. Of the extract I shall only remark that a dose of the largest dose scarcely dose exceeds three grains can stand in need of little



consideration.

Stevens, 3d

Adams' Committee

The question whether the state is entitled to a salary on the primary organization of the state of 1801, is much controverted. The views of the attorney are, that the constitutionality can be justified, mainly through the account given by the original author of the constitution, in which he observes, that, "the state may, in the course of time, ultimately have the executive & legislative branches of government, & may have had a little time required to settle a salary on each branch, before the new state of 1801, making a question of the salary, that would require a subsequent resolution of the state, to fix it, in order to bring into law and give it effect in time to be in existence, in the mean time, the state of 1801, will be settling the general wages & salaries.



but Vigilant is surely a simulacrum; respecting  
the meaning of the word, were interesting & salutary.  
But that the elementant species are in no way  
incommensurate to the ultimate material substance.  
The analogy in this respect between Phium and  
Vigilant is very striking. Many of the  
circumstances attending the operation of this sim-  
ilar plant, can only be attributed to its in-  
trinsic properties (of being a plant); not at  
simpl explaining the wonderfulness of it would  
be absurd with ridiculous. It is true, how-  
ever we might come to at first confute, & yet  
not have acquired a better knowledge of the  
mechanism of the nervous system and its influence  
over the animal. The elevation of Vigilant over  
the insectivore system is very great at repeated  
experiments. Clearly, from diminishing the activi-  
ty of the ruler in some instances to have  
the natural substance of any man now living.



and thought an opinion a few years ago that could  
secure a sedative capable of reducing the pulse  
without danger from 120 in a minute to 75 or 80 at  
the will of the practitioner, he would have been  
viewed as a visionary; and he continues this  
view furnished as the means of regulating the  
pulse to our wish and of maintaining a firm stat-  
ute velocity as long as we judge good. The  
state of the pulse varies also according to the  
action of the cerebral body. This regularly was  
not referred to Dr. Johnson and published in 1811  
in the Medical and Physical Journal, this he had  
not at first tried upon himself, having put his  
mother under its full effects; upon standing erect  
it pulse beat 108, upon sitting down much slower,  
and when lying on his back it fell to 40. this  
he frequently repeated upon himself and others and  
always attended with the same results; I have  
paid much attention to this subject says Doctor



Hamerton without being able to convince myself  
of the fact in question, but I believe the variation  
in the pulse will rather be found to accompany  
debility in general than to depend upon the par-  
ticular influence of Digitalis: as a proof of it, he  
relates a case in which as the infat aban-  
doned in strength it entirely ceased. From its ex-  
traordinary property over the circulatory system, the  
absorbent is called into play, and upon this  
action many of its specific medicinal effects  
depend and especially its operation as a diuretic;  
but without this opinion—that Digitalis  
does not specifically on the kidneys act, I  
will quote the high authority of Doctor Chapman  
whose opinion upon all subjects is equally  
respected and admired—it seems now to  
be one of those medicines that act direct  
on the absorbent system having little or no re-  
lation to the kidneys. Concluding my remarks on



the motor operator of will only add, that I think  
Digestion by diminishing the frequency of the Heart  
and arteries; consequently diminishes the  
irritability of the system: increases the action  
of the kidneys, and the discharge by urine.

Given 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Practical application

Drawing a picture from the operation of Digestion upon the viscera, its use in hysterical affections would seem to be indicated.  
at any state of all the dirt in which it has  
been employed to reputation in diseases  
is the most diabolical. The practice of per-  
scribing it in desperate cases originated  
with Abbot St. Bernard about the year 1775. He was  
induced to employ it from having seen  
it used as a domestic remedy at Sig-  
by andithers estimate its power that  
it can do for us is the removal of the water



will contribute to cure the patient, so much  
may be expected from Digitalis. This pre-  
cure was soon made known and imitated  
by many and among the number the dis-  
tinguished names of Picot, Pithou and  
Garrison stood conspicuous. In intercriminate  
administration of this remedy in diseases regard-  
ing of the patient's pulse, symptoms do not  
need a tendency greatly to diminish the in-  
halation, Volkmann says that in persons of weak  
body and great natural strength the medicinal effec-  
tions succeeds, while on the contrary of the indi-  
viduals feeble or intermitting, the humor cold, it rarely suc-  
ceeds to do good. The encyclopedic form of the disease is  
extraordinary may be prescribed in all the other  
particulars. On account of the diversity of opinion it  
is difficult to determine in what form of these  
two vegetal in some cases infusions; they  
each however has a greater moderation, for it in



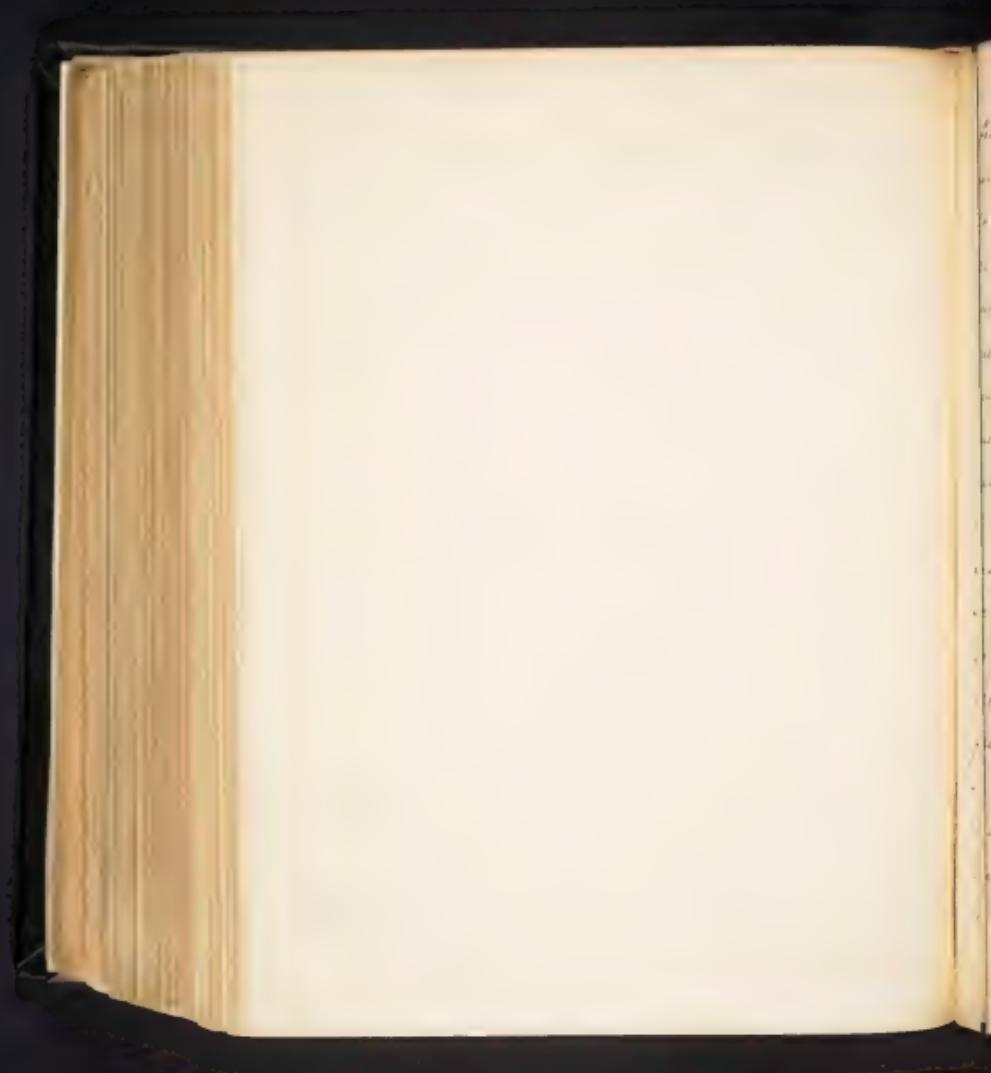
seen one of its forms, was in others, among which, in doubt  
there being still some of the more frequently seen  
in the U.S. American. I should recommend it to  
Apothecaries and others concerning its selec-  
tion in the other hand, it may not be in  
other than one case deserve for abandonment  
which that was not readily relieved by the  
removal of the common *Lichen* or *Callery* of the  
irradiating *Phytolacca*. It is easy to feel  
it to be quickly applied to the surface  
exposed, and to cover it with a continuous  
and <sup>adhesive</sup> <sup>adhesive</sup> <sup>adhesive</sup> <sup>adhesive</sup> <sup>adhesive</sup> <sup>adhesive</sup> <sup>adhesive</sup>  
film in other words; under circumstances espe-  
cially favourable. Dr. John Chapman, a natural-  
ist, has it well to establish the ad-  
hesiveness of the *Phytolacca* in his case  
of Chapman I fully coincide - as to the use  
of *Leaves* of *Phytolacca*. Daniel Downing my  
neighbour in the church application of *Leaves*



lute in dropsies without exciting the flattery, &  
now of Puric in its power; the medicine 'says' he  
may almost be said to be possessed of a charm  
for its efficacy in some kinds of dropsies; but  
certainly Hydrocephalus: its introduction into medi-  
cine, is one of the greatest blessings our country  
has received in modern times. In organic affec-  
tions of the head and large veins using them  
or depending upon hydroptic infusions or deco-  
ctions suspending the natural functions &c  
Digestion will in doubt considerably alleviate  
syncretic and prolong life. The pathology  
& aperientage clearly indicates the advantage  
in certain states of these digest to be derived  
from the dilution of Hydrocephalus; but we  
never to those aperientage; nor - control  
organs or what may, perhaps be more effec-  
tively disseminated hydrocephalic aperientage; be-  
cause to a certain point of their excretion



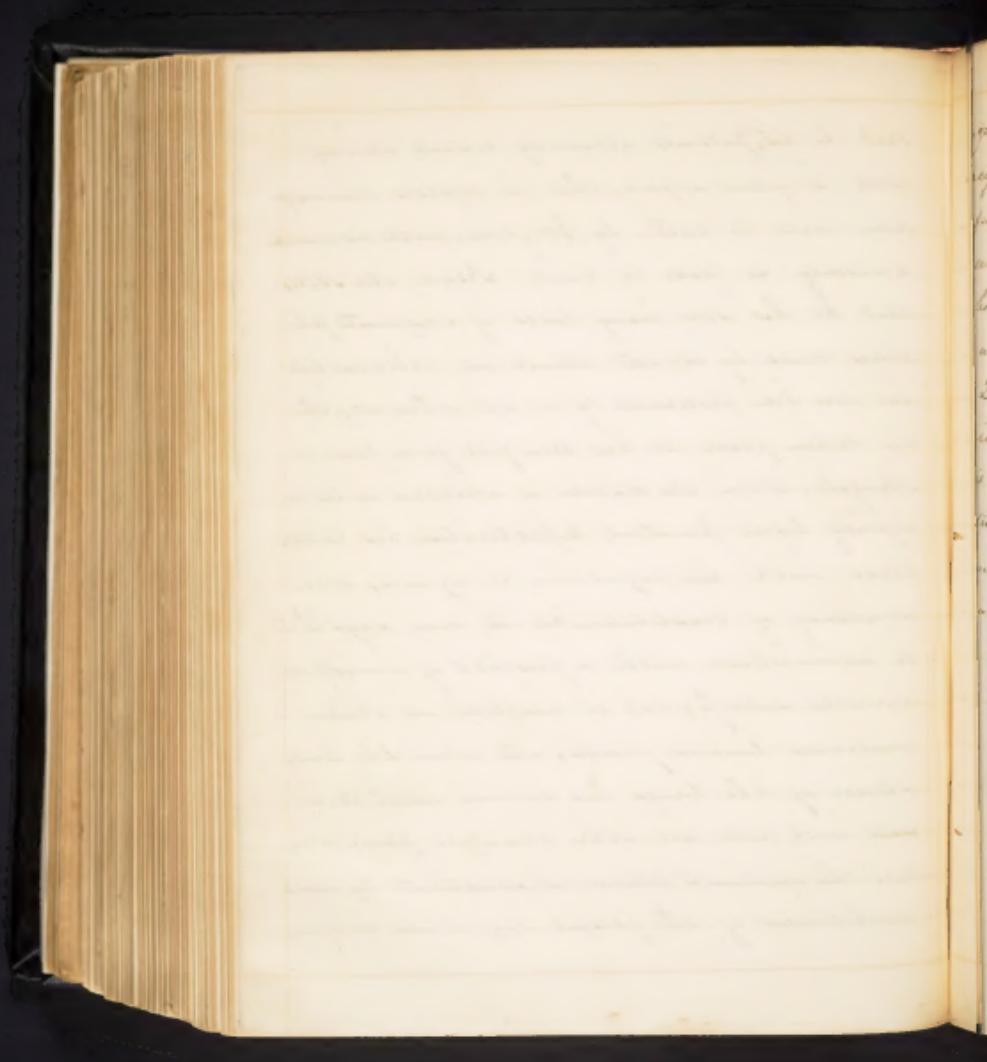
is full; the pulse quick, hard, and full; but after  
bleeding has taken out a considerable quantity  
of blood lost: the pulse becomes more natural  
and less frequent, the force of the circulation al-  
-though diminished, is still more and more  
in health, the cause being removed the vessels  
are unable to resist the vivacity, and a repetition  
of the attack ensues; to deplete under  
such circumstances would be hazardous, at this  
critical moment respiration is said to act like  
magics and particularly <sup>the</sup> Camellia it is  
true its effects are wonderful, the vessels  
it is said can be right up until the oxygen  
shall have regained their power of resistance.  
Its supposed influence over inflammatory diseases:  
and of its succeding the lancet, I shall say  
little; absurd and ridiculous however as this  
rachet was, it had its votaries among whom  
might be counted Currie and Hotham; the



former states, that he has employed and succeeded  
well at in cases of inflammations of the viscera, <sup>in</sup>  
so well he should otherwise have derived of  
treating the latter way but invincible inflam-  
mations may be overcome by it, with as much  
certainty as, <sup>if</sup> not by bark, then gentler and  
milder and more decided than either, <sup>and</sup> the  
several <sup>and</sup> thin must have resided in these day  
interval of such obstructions as are common  
to be met with at the present time. In chronic  
cases of these affections after sufficient settling  
so had been attended to, digitalis in small doses  
as an astringent would no doubt have had a  
beneficial tendency. I shall conclude with a  
few remarks upon its application in the viscera,  
as such was at one time my view of it, but  
which in last stage would be useless, <sup>as</sup> it would only  
prolongs all the concomitant disturbances, <sup>and</sup> some  
so obtrusive to its remedial powers. Previous to



that he has <sup>seen</sup> patients advancing towards recovery  
with so firm a pace, that he expects consumption  
will be cured by Foxglove, with as much  
certainty as those by bals. Drake also states  
that he has seen many cases of Consumption, ph.  
thisis cured by it, and almost all relieved; life  
has even been protracted by it, and when death  
has taken place it has been free from pain or  
struggle. When the disease is attacked in its inci-  
-pient stage before paroxysmal affection has taken  
place with due regulation to regimen, it is  
useless of Constitution &c it may says Pto  
be administered with a prospect of almost in-  
-variable success; but it has like all other  
medicines limited power, and when the sub-  
stance of the lungs has become involved it  
will like all other medicines prove abo-  
tive this opinion I believe is sanctioned by most  
practitioners of the present day; I will only say



most in conclusion that emanating as the efficacy of Digitalis in the cure of Consumption does; from men of such distinction, I think it ought as little as a doctor's resource in all cases however far advanced or desperate. An appeal must now be made to the generosity of the Professors of this Institution in behalf of this imperfect (say) and I flatter myself; when it is taken in consideration the being the production of a juvenile mind impelled by necessity and not choice: the appeal will not be made in vain.—

